

2026 Educators Conference Agenda
Friday, May 1, 2026
Indiana CPA Society – Indianapolis, IN



CPE: 8 hours

8:30–10:00 a.m. General Session (90 Minutes)

The Employer Perspective - Preparing Students for What's Next

Panelists

[Don Zakrowski, Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer at Eli Lilly](#)

[Randie Dial, MP Indiana Geography at CLA](#)

What do employers really wish students knew before day one? Hear directly from organization leaders and firm partners. This interactive panel covers insights on hiring trends, emerging competencies, and how workplaces are changing. Expect honest conversation about recruiting priorities, must-have skills versus nice-to-haves, remote work, work-life integration, and technology disruption. Panelists will discuss what new professionals need to thrive, how employers are rethinking development and retention, and practical ways educators can bridge the classroom-to-career gap.

10:00–11:10 a.m. General Session (70 Minutes)

The Profession Ready Initiative: An Educator Roundtable on Skills, AI, and Curriculum

The Profession Ready Initiative is a research backed, profession owned effort to identify the skills early career CPAs need now and in the future, including the impact of AI and technology. In this interactive educator roundtable, you will compare what you see in students today with what employers expect at entry level and in the first few years on the job, then pressure test how those expectations may shift by 2030. You will leave with practical ideas you can use in curriculum, advising, and experiential learning, plus a clear picture of how educator feedback will inform teaching resources developed through the initiative.

11:10–11:20 a.m. Networking Break

11:20 a.m.–12:35 p.m. General Session (75 Minutes)

From Campus to CPA - Getting Students Exam Ready

[Sharon Huang, Associate Professor of Accounting, Miller College of Business at Ball State University](#)

[Bill Terando, Accounting & Law Department Chair, Lacy School of Business at Butler University](#)

[Diane Sturek, Teaching Professor in Accounting, Kelley School of Business at Indiana University Indianapolis](#)

Hear from educators at Indiana institutions who are successfully encouraging students to sit for the CPA Exam. Each panelist will give a brief presentation sharing honest, practical snapshots of their approaches: how they introduce the exam, integrate it alongside coursework and internships,

structure advising, and provide support that removes barriers. You'll hear what's working, what's changed in recent years, and what didn't go as planned. Following the presentations, a moderated panel discussion will explore common challenges and realistic next steps for programs looking to increase early exam participation.

12:35–1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30–2:45 p.m. General Session (75 Minutes)

Elevating Performance with AI-Supported Evaluation

[Chris Cook, Teaching Professor, Kelley School of Business at Indiana University](#)

[Tom Lunsford, Lecturer, Kelley School of Business at Indiana University](#)

2:45–3:00 p.m. Networking Break

3:00–4:30 p.m. (90 Minutes)

Indiana's Workforce: Trends, Changes & Challenges

[Courtney Kincaid, CAE, President & CEO, Indiana CPA Society](#)

Courtney delivers her fast-paced rundown of what's happening in Indiana's accounting profession and what it means for educators. From workforce pipeline data and enrollment trends to regulatory changes and emerging practice issues, this session cuts through the noise to focus on what actually matters for your classroom. Whether it's workforce challenges, shifts in professional competencies, or trending topics that should be shaping your curriculum, you'll leave ready to bring relevant, current content back to your students.

4:30 p.m. Adjourn